



Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Chairman: Greg Andruskevich

3 Caraway Lane

Nashua, NH 03063

THE 2013 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

The park at this time remains well maintained and very clean thanks to committee members being in the park on a daily basis instead of just trail days.

In January, 2013 we held officer elections:

- Chairman: Greg Andruskevich
- Vice-Chairman: David Silva
- Secretary: Joshua Segal

Trail dates and meeting dates for 2013 were specified as:

2013 Meetings: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 (No Meeting scheduled for July).

2013 Trail Days: April 20, May 18, June 15, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, (Possible trail day for Nov. 16)

The trail day volunteer count varied from 15 to almost 30.

The major capital projects of the year:

- Water chestnut removal in Nashua River
- Repaving of deteriorated areas on the yellow and red trails and the Whipple Street entrance.
- Purchase of a portable power washing unit to clean graffiti off the bridges and boulders.

Major project was the erosion control on the Red Trail.

Re-routing pedestrian and bicycle traffic around the cliff area near the Gatehouse withstood the ravages of nature but do need some restacking.

- Reopening a Trail on the South Side of the Canal by N. 7th St. was cleaned once again and removal of barbed wire to make the journey safer.
- Extending the wood chip walk along the Cove Trail drew many positive comments.
- Birdhouse cleaning brought an abundance of birds back to the Cove area.
- Knotweed control experiment at the Spine Road (aka Millyard River Entrance) continues.
- Only one campsite was found this year in the Cove area and cleared by Scott Rogers and his wife Patti while the Park-Recreation crews continued with their magnificent help and picked up the trash, etc., found by the Rogers and deposited on Spine Road.
- Oracle volunteers aided in the cleaning of the Nashua River which is the boundary mark on the north side of the park and collected more than a ton of trash from the lowered Nashua River under the leadership of scribe Joshua Segal in October.
- This was the second cleaning of the river as Greg and Joshua teamed up to remove trash when the river was first lowered.
- Birdhouses were cleaned by North Honor Society members and birds have returned to the Cove to reside. The Cove trail was completely marked with wood chips and this has held up well.



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Ongoing Projects:

- New signage for the park has been installed and is waiting for the logos and inserts
- Covering and/or cleaning up graffiti
- Maintaining availability of "Dog Litter Bags" (Mark Soucy and Joshua Segal)
- Picking up litter
- Photographic documentation (Greg Andruskevich)
- Restoration of the areas associated with "Ethnic Swimming Areas" along the Yellow Trail will be resumed in 2014.

The committee still has some concerns that require the help of the city in solving.

1. Unleashed dogs in the park though the city's lone animal control officer has been responsive to phone calls made to the police.
2. Dog owners who do not properly pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste.
3. Litter problem in the leased overflow parking lot at UPS.

Though 2013 was another banner year in keeping the park the gem that it is it was also sad as we lost a dedicated member, Carol Rust, who loved being in the park and helping to keep it clean, especially in her kayak voyages in the power canal. A search for a proper kayak launch site will hopefully be named in her memory.

Many dedicated people worked to improve and maintain the park. The Park and Recreation superintendent, Nick Caggiano, is always helpful and responsive to the needs of the park. Dick Gillespie, our Conservation Commission representative, had many ideas on park maintenance that he shared and helped implement. Pam Anderson, Mark Soucy, Ed Moran, Sherm Sewall, Mike Dillon, Greg Andruskevich, Dave Silva and Joshua Segal led teams on Trail Days. Peter Testa along with Mark Soucy were constants at coordinating Trail Day Registration. Greg Andruskevich was also a presence in the park documenting the park 4-seasons per year. He also added to his cigarette butt pickup reaching an astounding total of 31,000 by September of this year. Todd Guay and the Soccer Council of Nashua has been a great resource in keeping the Whipple St. Entrance clean and has provided support and leadership. Pam Anderson and Mike Dillon did yeoman's work as docents in the Gatehouse along with Mark Soucy, Joshua and Greg.

The newest addition to having the Gatehouse open was a coloring book program instituted by Peter Testa, Pam and Mark as well as having high school students assist the youngsters. Each child was also presented a -shirt.

Though not on the committee Sonny and Carol Bruce are park regulars who are always contributing to the "user friendliness" of the park.

In attempting to keep the Cheyenne Drive side of the park clean, we have also provided effort in parts of Lincoln Park that are hidden from view. A high school volunteer group cleaned the Cheyenne Side as a class project on Oct. 16.

Graffiti is a constant issue in the park. "paint-over" as did our summer interns.



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Tagging continues to be a problem but our summer interns managed to clear most of what was in the park. Our advice to the City Parks and Recreation Director Nick Caggiano is readily addressed and the support of the entire department goes beyond what is expected.

We held a special November cleaning of the Triangle area once the leaves had fallen and we could unblock the drain and culverts so the snow and rain to come will have a clear path to the water treatment facility.

Kudos must be extended to Dick Gillespie and volunteers from Oracle for the magnificent work done on widening the red trail by the Culvert Curve next to the Mill Pond entrance to the trail.

That and the grading of the once erosion filled Spine Road by G44 was accomplished by Nick and foreman Bob Genest to improve the safety of runners who use the area.

Speaking of runners, the park continues to be used as a haven for road races and Cross Country meets for high schools and colleges.

It must be noted that the committee is in need of new members and that present members have been trying to secure new members for the committee.

The committee lost a valuable member when David Silva decided to resign due to personal and work-related reasons.

The state of the park is still regarded as being a gem in the heart of the city and the committee will continue to have it maintain that status.

- Two major brush fires required firefighters from Nashua, Merrimack, Hudson and Dunstable, Mass., to put out the fires along Y21 to Y30 and G13.

Greg Andruskevich

chairman MFPAC

Submitted, October 23, 2013